

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-17.

Please insert the following new claims:

AD 18. (New) A method of contraception which comprises administering for 21 successive days to a female of child bearing age a combination of ethinyl estradiol and desogestrel^{OR-2969} in a contraceptively effective daily dosage in which there is a first phase of 5-8 days wherein the combination comprises an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.100 mg; followed by a second phase of 7-11 days wherein the combination comprises an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.125 mg; followed by a third phase of 3-7 days wherein the combination comprises an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.150 mg; and followed by 4-8 days free of estrogen and desogestrel administration.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the ethinyl estradiol and the desogestrel are administered orally and the period of each phase is seven days.

20. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the ethinyl estradiol and the desogestrel are administered in admixture.

21. (New) A triphasic oral contraceptive unit having 21 separate dosage units adapted for successive daily oral administration comprising: 5-8 dosage units containing, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a combination of an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.100 mg as a first phase; followed by 7-11 dosage units containing, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, a combination of an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.125 mg as a second phase; followed by 3-7 dosage units containing, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, an ethinyl estradiol daily dosage of 25 µg and a desogestrel daily dosage of 0.150 mg as a third phase; and optionally containing 4-8 additional dosage units free of ethinyl estradiol and desogestrel.

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22. (New) The contraceptive unit according to claim 10, wherein the dosage units are in the form of tablets.
